

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/982,008

Applicant(s)

YAMADA ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Dennis Rosario

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to AF 1/13/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1/11/2002
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

JOSEPH MANCUSO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment was received on January 13, 2006. Claims 1-23 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 and 10 are allowed. Thus, the respective dependent claims are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 10 are allowed for the limitation of counting a feature amount on a high or low frequency region basis using an unquantized coefficient.

The art of record, Knee et al. (WO 200022831 A1) teaches counting an unquantized coefficient as shown in fig. 4 since no quantization takes place in the invention; however, Knee et al. does not teach counting on a high or low frequency region basis and instead counts in the whole frequency region. Knee et al. does not suggest using any type of frequency range or groupings or modifying a frequency; thus, a proper combination with another reference cannot be achieved.

Another art of record, Yamada et al. (US Patent 5,831,688 A) teaches counting coefficients (Fig. 1A,num. 4 and mentioned in col. 7, lines 24-43) on a low frequency basis or "low frequency zone" in col. 7, lines 41,42; however, fig. 1A,num. 4 counts "inverse quantized" in col. 7, line 26 which is not the claimed unquantized coefficient because the coefficients of Knee et al. have be quantized for counting regardless if the coefficients have been forward or inverse quantized. Yamada et al. is silent with regard to modifying the quantizer. A combination of Yamada et al. with Knee et al. would not be proper because, Yamada et al. does not teach or suggest or motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the quantizer.

The benefit of claims 1 and 10 enhances coding.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis Rosario whose telephone number is (571) 272-7397. The examiner can normally be reached on 6-3.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Mancuso can be reached on (571) 272-7695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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JOSEPH MANCUSO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER